

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

Glue is applied on one or both sides of the piece of wood once jointed. They are then jointed by hand side-to-side in rows and one behind another on a conveyor 3 at an assembly area 10. In general, an assembled panel has 48 to 65 individual strips wide, each being 0.5 inch to 1.5 inches wide and generally at least 6 inches long. It will be understood that other sizes fall within the scope of the present invention. At this point, the assemblers control the distance between joints and their distribution. Once one section is assembled, it is moved forward into the press 20 (Figures 10a, 10b, 10c and 10d). At this point, joints have a tendency to open because the strips are not provided with a hook joint at their ends. Inside the press, a device termed multi-finger joint pressing machine 30 closes the joints by applying an individual longitudinal pressure of more than 100 pounds on each strip. This process is called the multiple simultaneous jointing. It is multiple because there is more than one strip and simultaneous because a longitudinal pressure is applied to all strips at the same time. The multiple simultaneous jointing starts as soon as the panel is completely inside the press ~~and follows these steps~~ (see Figs. 10a, 13a, 13b and 13c):

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 27 with the following amended paragraph:

Thus, the assemblers first assemble the leading portion of the floorboard. Once assembled, the leading portion is conveyed into the press into a curing area 57. Inside the press, there is a stopper 21, which acts to stop only the leading edge of the floorboard from moving downstream. Once the leading portion has been assembled and cured and the leading portion moves beyond the press into a receiving area 50, a holding system 40, sandwiches the floorboard ~~between the plate/rod and the conveyor~~, to prevent any longitudinal movement. This holding system is preferably a plate 51 moveable between a retracted position and an operative position.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

At the front of the press, either when curing the leading portion of the floorboard, or when curing other portions of the floorboard, the device 30 goes down on the panel's surface in a way that teeth plunge onto each strip of the panel 5. The joint pressing machinery has a rod or shaft 33 which is horizontally and vertically movable. The rod 33 holds holders 35, which are preferably laterally movable (see Fig. 11a). The holders 35 each support at least one tooth 31. The tooth is, in a preferred embodiment, a thin rectangular plate, having at least one pick 37, but preferably more, on its bottom edge (see Fig. 12). The holder preferably has an L-shape, and the front portion extending downwardly is provided with a longitudinal hole or slot 55. The tooth 31 has a forwardly extending shaft 39 which is partially inserted into the hole. Between the holder 35 and the tooth 31 and about the shaft 39, an energy absorber in the form of a spring 41 is placed. The energy absorber, as better shown in Fig. 13c, acts to absorb excess pressure so as not to damage the floorboard 5 when pressure is longitudinally applied.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

Once this process is over, the press 20 begins the glue's baking or curing process. In the press, a large plate 59 is lowered on the floorboard, and a lateral pressure system applies lateral pressure to downwardly and laterally apply pressure. This type of press is known in the art, and therefore specific details of its construction are not shown. A heater 63 is also provided in the press for triggering the curing process with the use of heat.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 30 with the following amended paragraph:

It is also understood by persons skilled in the art that an appropriate controller 61 controls the apparatus of the press, the multi-finger jointing machine 20 30 and the conveyor. It will also be apparent to a person skilled in the art that the specific construction of the holder 40 is not an essential element of the present invention. Furthermore, the components which move the multi-

finger jointing machine from its retracted position to its operative position, although preferably being pistons appropriately placed, could be other known or unknown systems, as will be apparent to those skilled in the art. Also, although the motion of the transversal bar is illustrated as following an "L" shape, such motions could be different provided that the pressure is applied downwardly and longitudinally to close the joints, but does not promote buckling of the floor.